

## GIS User Meeting Minutes – April 24<sup>th</sup> – Montlake 370W

### *In attendance*

CB: Mindi Sheer, Jen Burke  
EC: Mindy Rowse, Andrea Pratt  
FRAM: Curt Whitmire  
SDM Team: Flo Damian, Brendan Sylvander, Jeff Cowen  
REUT: Darran May  
AFSC: 2 employees from FOCI – RACE division

### *Announcements:*

#### ESRI International Users Conference

Rich Kang from the SDM Team has graciously offered to a Center employee one ESRI license-based free pass [for registration](#) to the ESRI Annual Conference in San Diego from July 7 to 11, 2003. This is an \$1500 value, so is a great opportunity. For more details about the conference, go to <http://www.esri.com/events/uc/index.html>.

Discussed options for using the SDM ESRI fund money, and group decided that the best way to make use of the money is to allow all attendees apply a portion of the money to their registration or travel and per diem costs. We have 3 free passes to cover registration, and we determined that travel charges will be about \$1200. Mindi will send an email out to ask all Users if they are interested in attending, then we will finalize how to split the SDM ESRI funds.

### *Meeting Discussions*

#### ESRI ArcGIS and ERDAS license issues at the Center

##### ESRI ArcGIS

- Blake and Brendan put together a spreadsheet outlining the amount of use/logins to the Arc License server by individual here at NWFSC. Usage was broken down into # of hours per individual, and a formula was applied for calculating total costs. In the spreadsheet breakdown, each individual is charged a base of \$500 just to have the software loaded on their machine (\$500 for ArcGIS and \$500 for ArcView).
- Brendan was interested in finding out the distribution of use between divisions & individuals so the SDM can determine a good way of distributing license & maintenance costs. Maintenance alone is about 40K / year. Last year the cost (distributed equally per person) was about \$1100. The new method increases the cost a bit for some individuals, but was generally close to \$1100.
- Maintenance expires at the end of September, and Brendan wants to move quickly on assigning budget codes, etc. to cover ESRI maintenance. He plans on sending out more info on this to the entire list in May.

#### Geostatistical Analyst and ArcGIS 8.3

Chris Wayne, ESRI rep from Seattle joined us for this meeting and provided us with a general outline of the capabilities of the Geostatistical Analyst (GA) and the new features in ArGIS 8.3. He also gave a demo on event themes and routes in 8.2.

#### *Overview of Chris's Discussion*

GA is useful for adding directionality and distance influence to interpolation analyses. GA allows interpolations to be saved as layers, which can then be saved as data sets if necessary. All specs used (many available) during creation of data surfaces are saved to a file for later reference. Error surfaces, probability surfaces, and trend analysis are also relatively easy to do in GA. GA is well suited for statisticians, but takes a bit more investment of time for non-statisticians to take full advantage of the interface.

In 8.3 users will not be able to edit coverages anymore, will need to use ArcEdit for coverage editing (not sure if you will still be able to edit table features w/in 8.3). The definition of design of “Topology” has changed in 8.3. It now includes the ability of setting rules for creating, editing, and manipulating geodatabases.

*Workshop to be aware of:*

Marine and Coastal GIS Workshop – University of Washington, Extension course., September 2003  
Chris will send us details on this.

***Action Items***

Mindi will send email about ESRI license money

***Topics and Date of Next Meeting:***

- Matt Boyd (see topic title above) has offered to give a presentation here at the center on his stream temperature work – have since received a call from Russ Faux from Watershed Sciences, LLC (Corvallis) who offered to give a talk instead of M. Boyd since he has left DEQ. Russ will be available to give a talk here in September.
- Expand meeting topics to include marine-related GIS issues to incorporate interests of FRAM – we have users here and in Newport that are interested in 3D spatial data methods.
- Date of next meeting will be posted for the group shortly.

For more information on the GIS User group or to be added to the GIS User’s mailing list, please contact [Mindi.Sheer@noaa.gov](mailto:Mindi.Sheer@noaa.gov) , 206-860-3428 or [Jennifer.Burke@noaa.gov](mailto:Jennifer.Burke@noaa.gov), 206-860-3362